CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An integrated communication system for an aircraft having at least one passenger seat, comprising:

an integrated signal unit operable to receive and transmit a plurality of signals of disparate nature to and from a user of the at least one passenger seat in the aircraft; a plurality of aircraft communication links interfaced with the integrated signal unit for carrying the plurality of signals of disparate nature throughout the aircraft from sources of the plurality of signals of disparate nature; and

a receiving device interfaced to at least one passenger seat and in communication with the integrated signal unit for receiving at least one of the plurality of signals and outputting a signal to a passenger in the passenger seat.

2. The system recited in claim 1, wherein the plurality of signals of disparate nature comprise the group consisting essentially of audio, video and data signals.

3. The system recited in claim 1, wherein the plurality of aircraft communication links further comprise telecommunications wiring.

4. The system recited in claim 3, wherein the receiving device comprises a speaker.

5. The system recited in claim 3, wherein the receiving device comprises a video monitor.

6. The system recited in claim 3, wherein the receiving device comprises a telephone handset.

7. The system recited in claim 3, wherein the receiving device comprises an intercom.

8. A communications system for use in an aircraft, comprising:

a seat unit operable to receive a plurality of signals bussed through the aircraft; a first audio processing circuit operable to generate audio signals, the first audio processing circuit being coupled to the sear unit over a wireline communication channel;

a first telephone signal processing circuit operable to receive and send telephone signals, the first telephone signal processing unit being coupled to the seat unit through the wireline communication channel;

the seat unit further comprising:

a first audio processing receiving circuit operable to receive the audio signals for processing and delivery to a passenger audio transducer;

a second telephone signal processing circuit that is operable to receive and send the telephone the telephone signals for delivery to and from a passenger telephone handset; and

electrical circuitry coupled to and shared by the first audio processing receiving circuit and the second telephone processing circuit.

9. The system recited in claim 8, wherein the plurality of signals comprise the group consistently essentially of audio, video and data signals.

10. The system recited in claim 9 wherein the first audio processing unit comprises a radio audio processing unit.

11. The system recited in claim 10, further comprising a second audio processing unit operable to generate audio and video signals and being coupled to the seat unit over a wireline communication channel.

12. The system recited in claim 11, wherein the passenger transducer comprises a speaker.

13. The system recited in claim 11, wherein the passenger transducer comprises a video monitor.

14. The system recited in claim 11, further comprising a telephone handset coupled to the first telephone signal processing unit for directing telephone signals to the passenger.